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Historic District Commission

TAUNTON, MA

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William A. Manganiello, Chair
Barbara Mullen, Vice Chair
Robert D. Dickerman
Charles Thayer
Michele Monteiro
Joseph Norte
Steve Rogers



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Colleen Ellis, Secretary

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MINUTES – OCTOBER 21, 2021

A regular meeting of the Historic District Commission was held on Thursday, October 21, 2021. Present were William Manganiello, Barbara Mullen, Steve Rogers, Joseph Norte, Dr. Charles Thayer and Michele Monteiro.

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m.

New Business/New Matters

40 Dean Street – Applicant was to be here for a pre-meeting but is not present. Commissioner Norte made a motion to defer this matter until later in the evening. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Rogers and unanimously passed.

46 Harrison Street – This is the site of a former historic structure, which was the home of the first Mayor of the City of Taunton Edmund Hatch Bennett, that was destroyed by fire and required demolition. Mr. Lester Wade who represents the owner, Bradley Thomas was present. The building will be sideways on the lot and will face the house next door. There will be 6 units with a townhouse on each end and 4 one bedroom units in the middle. The owner would like to keep it the same color as it was originally. The insurance company made him put vinyl on the house previously but he used a colonial blue color which matched the existing color that the house was originally. The trim will be white PVC. The windows will be vinyl Pella windows. It was noted that the original house was clapboard not vinyl.

Chairman Manganiello asked the Commission to keep in mind that this house is not in the Historic District, it is not a restoration so they do not need to trigger a public hearing on this like they would for new construction. They are looking at this from the aspect of what is going on the site, but the more important part for the Commission is to look at the structure, look at the

layout, have a little bit of input to maybe some of the exterior features, but also to discuss a mitigation that would be placed on the property in the form of a plaque or memorial. An example would be what they have done over at Walgreens on Winthrop Street, The Weir Park and City Hall. It memorializes the prior structure and the significance of it. They would not be looking for plaques on each unit, they would look for something on the property, near the driveway facing Harrison Street to say "On this site once stood....." Mr. Wade was thinking of a wooden sign, but the Commission is concerned with the longevity of it as it would fade. The Commission would prefer something that could withstand the weather, something similar to what is at the Walgreens which is granite with bronze.

Commissioner Monteiro recommended a gable end and a plaque similar to what is at Walgreens. It was recommended that Mr. Wade look at the memorial at Walgreens and the Commission will work on the wording at a later time as the Commission will provide the wording. The Commission will also require a photo of the type of plaque that they propose.

Commissioner Mullen made a motion to require mitigation in the style similar to that at Walgreens and the Weir River Front Park. Commissioner Rogers seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

40 Dean Street – the Applicant was not present and defaulted.

Administrative

Commissioner Manganiello said that he, Commissioner Norte and Commissioner Rogers met with the Office of Economic and Community Development to look at a potential grant opportunity for the Historic District Commission. Essentially they were invited to submit a proposal for a survey and planning grant for fiscal 2022. If they were approved, his understanding is that it would be funded for fiscal 2023. Eligible projects that would be funding priorities for FY 2022 include community-wide or targeted inventories of historic, architectural, landscape or archaeological resources, or planning for a preliminary survey projects to prepare for inventories. The current State Historic Preservation Plan includes the updating of community-wide inventories, development of community-wide survey plans, and the undertaking of thematic surveys among its objectives. What was discussed at the meeting was going forward to apply for this grant, submit the additional submission materials to get past round one. That is due on November 15th. What they are looking at doing is putting forward a proposal to conduct an inventory of historical sites and structures within the City. This is a matching grant. The letter of intent is due November 15th. The grant range is typically \$10,000-\$20,000 meaning that the total project would be \$20,000-\$40,000 and the City must share project cost at 50/50. The City must match the amount of the grant received. The project must be completed by June 30th, 2023. They have asked the Mayor's Office to respond back to let them know if there is any money to set aside for the matching funds. Unless they can get a commitment to match the funds there is no sense in going forward. The eligible activities are a completion of cultural resource inventories; nomination of significant properties to the National Register of Historic Places; completion of community-wide preservation plans; and other types of studies, reports, publications and projects that relate to the identification and protection of significant historic properties and sites. Commissioner Manganiello is asking the Commission to endorse moving forward with the grant.

Commissioner Rogers made a motion to endorse give the Commission the authority to proceed exploring and obtaining this grant. Commissioner Joseph Norte seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Motion to adjourn made by Commissioner Mullen, seconded by Commissioner Monteiro and unanimously passed.

Meeting adjourned at 7:53 p.m.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Colleen Ellis".

Colleen Ellis
Secretary to the Commission